

Date: Tue, 1 Jun 93 04:30:18 PDT  
From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Ham-Policy-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Ham-Policy Digest V93 #169  
To: Ham-Policy

Ham-Policy Digest                      Tue, 1 Jun 93                      Volume 93 : Issue 169

Today's Topics:

                    Bad News For Blind U.S. Hams :-(  
                    Evolutionary enhancement to amateur licensing...  
            NOCODE/CODE DEBATE (can we talk about it,without calling names)  
                    Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Policy-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Policy Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-policy".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

-----

Date: 31 May 1993 23:56:50 -0500  
From: swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!geraldo.cc.utexas.edu!thumper.cc.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.UCSD.EDU  
Subject: Bad News For Blind U.S. Hams :-(  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

I posted this to .misc, so here it is here. BTW, if you reply to this address,  
you won't have your mail read for some time, as I'm leaving for Ruston, LA  
tomorrow morning early and may not have access to a computer or account for  
a little while... Any comments of course welcome, however.

If anyone caught this week's Newsline broadcast, then you know what I'm talk-  
ing about. If not, well, you soon will. :-)

The FCC has told a blind Advanced Class ham that he cannot administer VE  
examinations because he's not able to "observe" the candidates, as per the  
rules in Part 97 (this because of his blindness). Simple as that. His club  
or whatever wouldn't let him help with their tests; he filed a discrimination'

complaint with the FCC, who took some time in reaching a decision. Their decision was to say that the club was right in not letting this fella administer exams.

My personal view on this, as a blind Extra Class ham is that the FCC is wrong. Blind people can (and have) given exams (both as teachers and professors, to sighted students and I'm certain as VE's) for quite some time now. They have done so successfully, since these teachers are still employed ... The fact that these blind people are blind has not hindered their ability to "observe" their surroundings. This is probably one of the silliest (and stupidest and lots of other things) thing I've heard from the FCC in some time.

A bunch of us were talking on a local repeater about this last night, and I've this (in collaboration with my local others :-)). Someone said that their only problem would be if all three VE's were blind. (I'm sure I could set up this situation.) Considering the unique situation that VE's are in, I can think of only a few ways in which this could reasonably happen. First, let me say that most times, blind people use live readers to have such things as tests read to them (for grading and for taking as in college), as well as other print material. Since prospective candidates want their answers graded now, this would be impractical unless someone brought their reader, in which case one can argue that "someone" can watch the proceedings ... at any rate:

- A) The room is full of blind people taking tests and all the tests are being given in an accessible format.
- B) One of the blind VE's has some vision (i.e. legally blind) who can help more easily grade things.
- C) For those unable to read Braille, the tests could be given orally, as they are with blind people taking them as it stands now.

In all of these situations, the VE's are still in control. If there is one or two blind VE's, they would still all be in control of the situation, imho. Anyway, I think everyone gets my point, that the blind can competently administer VE exams. (BTW: I think it's time I send off for my VE certification. It's something I've been putting off ...)

The NFB convention is coming up next month. I'm sure this will be discussed there. Any other comments on this, pro or con? (Yes, it's a can of worms that has nothing to do with codeless techs!!)

Oh, and one other thing: People wouldn't like me as a VE if I had my way, but not because I'm blind. I think that a sending test should still be required for tests that require code proficiency. (But, let's not talk about that. I'm sure that most of y'all disagree with me, and that's no news. Besides, since the FCC stopped that 18 years ago or so, at least, I guess that I can't have my way after all [as everyone breathes a sigh of relief].)

--

Buddy Brannan, KB5ELV, Riff-Raff #4

The World's Youngest Old Fart :-)

Internet: davros@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu

"... Every inch of me that isn't a carnivore is 100% vegetarian."--Elf-Kin

-----  
Date: Mon, 31 May 93 03:44:53 CDT

From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!menudo.uh.edu!jpunix!unkaphaed!amanda!

robert@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Evolutionary enhancement to amateur licensing...

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Since my earlier suggestion to restructure the amateur licensing requirements by eliminating the 20 word-per-minute Morse element received virtually no response, I can only assume that the pro-no-code community felt they were too conservative, and failed to "modernize" the Amateur Service. With that being said, I have a new set of suggested modifications to the current examination structure:

First of all, I propose the creation of a single class of amateur license, and the elimination of ALL examination elements. The new class would be similar in privileges to the current Extra Class, and all amateurs holding lower classes would receive automatic upgrades.

All new call signs would be drawn from the current "2x3" (example: KB5ABC) pool, thus allowing a maximum number of available calls for new licensees. Current amateurs would retain their old calls, or have the option of getting a new one from the standard pool.

All new applicants must state on their application form that they are in possession of a current copy of FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 97. This is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC (or any GPO Bookstore in a major city). This part contains the Basis and Purpose of the Amateur Service (97.1), as well as everything else the new applicant needs to know concerning power levels, band plans, and so forth. What he (or she) doesn't find there, help is readily available from their fellow amateurs on the air.

Furthermore, I suggest that a single license application be used for new stations, modifications, and renewals. Since the current FCC Form 610 would be rendered obsolete by the sweeping changes I am proposing, I suggest that a new application be used: FCC Form 505.

--Robert

-----

Date: 1 Jun 93 07:52:22 GMT  
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu  
Subject: NOCODE/CODE DEBATE (can we talk about it,without calling names)  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

X-Ceo\_Options: Document

CEO document contents:

In article <930506.203411.1N2.rusnews.w165w@mooch.sbs.com> system@mooch.sbs.com  
(Christopher Ogren) writes:

>>Even if code was dropped all together as an exam requirement (can't be  
>>done because of international agreements) the exmas should at least be  
>>made worthy of the knowledge an amateur radio operator is suppose to  
>>posess.

>I'll agree with that...kill the code requirements except for 5 WPM  
>for HF privs, and then make real tests for general, advanced, and  
>extra.

Well I'm sorry I still don't undrestand why "CODE" amd "NOCODE", can't live  
together.

Please tell me why we could not have a "CW" subportion, a "DIGITAL"  
subportion, and "VOICE" as well. It seems to me the only reason this would  
not work is the " I HAD TO DO IT, EVERYBODY WAS TO DO IT" attitude.

BTW I do support 5wpm code to get on HF. It is the international aggrement.  
AND BESIDES I HAD TO DO IT!!! (-8-)

73\_al N1IQQ

My thoughts and Data Generals don't even come close

=====

-----

Date: Mon, 31 May 1993 07:42:39 MST  
From: usc!math.ohio-state.edu!cyber1.cyberstore.ca!van-bc!vanbc.wimsey.com!  
cs.ubc.ca!unixg.ubc.ca!kakwa.ucs.ualberta.ca!ersys!ve6mgs!rec-radio-  
info@network.UCSD.EDU  
Subject: Welcome to rec.radio.info!  
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome  
Last-modified: \$Date: 1993/05/16 21:57 \$  
Version: \$Revision: 1.05 \$

\*\*\* Welcome to rec.radio.info! \*\*\*

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group and to news.answers every two weeks. You are now reading the first article, which explains what rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The second article is titled "Submission Guidelines", and you only need to read it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the next " -- " string. The sections available are:

- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
  - Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
  - What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
  - OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
  - What type of material is considered inappropriate?
  - I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?
  - Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
  - I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational, factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in rec.radio.info.

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or cancelling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

```
/Newsgroups:.*[ ,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j
```

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

```
rec.radio.info:!s/::^
```

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

```
sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.
```

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.\* without the bulletins.

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, I will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the 'Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is Mark Salyzyn. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-request@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Submission Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

- 1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. I receive information in my mailbox; I then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into an informational, rather than a discussion, format.
- 2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.
- 3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap (or possibly comp.newprod) may be more deserving of the

posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, I would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. I reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all I can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

brian@UCSD.EDU (Brian Kantor) has kindly supplied a mail list server for rec.radio.info. Non of the articles will be digested, due to their size, so you will receive individual mailings for every article posted to the group.

Mail sent to radio-info@ucsd.edu will be forwarded to the moderator and thus is an alias to rec-radio-info@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca

To subscribe and unsubscribe via the listserver; the format for that is

```
sub address radio-info
unsub address radio-info
```

where 'address' is your full mailing address. Send this request to

```
listserv@ucsd.edu
```

Note that the server will automatically delete any address that bounces mail. If you leave the address portion blank, it will try to deduce your address from the mail headers. This may not work if you are on bitnet, milnet or some other non-Unix host, so it is recommended to put your return address in any case. For example:

```
sub mymailbox@myhost.mydomain.mil radio-info
or
sub MEMEME01@DMBHST.bitnet radio-info
```

or something like that.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. Still firming up details at the moment but here is a preliminary list:

- unbc.edu as maintained by Lyndon Nerenberg <lyndon@unbc.edu>
- nic.funet.fi maintained by Risto Kotlampi <rko@cs.tut.fi>  
saved to /pub/dx/text/rec.radio.info currently stored as  
numbered files.



Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for news.answer. This requires co-operation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

I suggest reading the posting guidelines for more information. I am open to suggestions.

I thank the following individuals for their input into this article:  
rec.music.info moderator Leo Breebaart rec-music-info@cp.tn.tudelft.nl  
rec.radio.broadcasting moderator Bill Pfeiffer wdp@gagme.chi.il.us  
Paul W. Schleck, KD3FU pschleck@unomaha.edu  
Ian Klufft, KD6EUI iklufft@uts.amdahl.com

--  
Mark Salyzyn -- Moderator rec.radio.info  
Submissions to: rec-radio-info@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca  
Administrivia to: rec-radio-request@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca  
\* Requests for information do \*not\* belong in rec.radio.info \*

-----  
End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #169  
\*\*\*\*\*